

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A computer-implemented method of on-line dispute resolution for a dispute, said method comprising:
 - (a) receiving a settlement offer from a first party; and
 - (b) presenting said settlement offer from said first party to a second party;
 - (c) receiving a settlement counter-offer from said second party;
 - (d) presenting said settlement counter-offer to said first party; and
 - (e) repeating steps (a) – (d) until the dispute is settled.
2. The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein the first party comprises one or more claimants and the second party comprises one or more defendants.
3. The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein the first party comprises one or more defendants and the second party comprises one or more claimants.
4. The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein the settlement offer comprises one or more settlement offers.
5. The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein the settlement counter-offer comprises one or more counter-offers.
6. The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein step (a) and step (c) is limited to a time duration after which no further offers or counter-offers may be received.
7. The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein the settlement offer is associated with a group negotiation number.

8. The computer-implemented method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

generating a report for presentation to said first party, said report summarizing the settlement offers made by second party.

9. The computer-implemented method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

generating a report for presentation to said second party, said report summarizing the settlement offers made by the first party.

10. The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein the first party is a group of one or more claimants, and the offer is an aggregate group offer from the claimants;

the second party is a group of one or more defendants and the counter-offer is made as individual offers from each of the defendants.

11. The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein the first party is a group of one or more defendants, and the offer is an aggregate group offer from the defendants;

the second party is a group of one or more claimants and the counter-offer is made as individual offers from each of the claimants.

12. The computer-implemented method of claim 10 or claim 11, further comprising settling the dispute for the claimants and defendants when the sum of the individual demands is equal to or greater than the aggregate group offer.

13. The computer-implemented method of claim 1, further comprising:

generating one or settlement documents when the dispute is settled.

14. The computer-implemented method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving a dispute registration for said dispute; and

storing said dispute registration into a database with a unique dispute identifier.

15. The computer-implemented method of claim 14, further comprising: providing to said first and second party each a unique access identifier, said unique access identifier associated to said dispute identifier.

16. The computer-implemented method of claim 1, further comprising: displaying a set of questions related to said dispute to said first party; receiving a first set of general exchange information from said first party; displaying to a second party, said set of questions related to said dispute; and receiving a second set of general exchange information from said second party.

17. The computer-implemented method of claim 16, further comprising the step of:

presenting a comparison of said first and second sets of general exchange information, said comparison identifying matching and non-matching general exchange information.

18. The computer-implemented method of claim 16, further comprising the step of:

receiving a first set of private exchange information from said first party; and receiving a second set of private exchange information for said second party; wherein the first set of private exchange information is not viewable by the second party; and the second set of private exchange information is not viewable by the first party.

19. The computer-implemented method of claim 16, wherein said questions are determined for presentation based on a dispute type.

20. The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein the settlement offer or the settlement counter-offer is a non-suit request.

21. A computer-readable medium having computer-readable program code embodied therein for causing a computer to perform the steps of:

- (a) receiving a settlement offer from a first party; and
- (b) presenting said settlement offer from said first party to a second party;
- (c) receiving a settlement counter-offer from said second party;
- (d) presenting said settlement counter-offer to said first party; and
- (e) repeating steps (a) – (d) until the dispute is settled.

22. The computer-readable medium of claim 21, wherein the first party comprises one or more claimants and the second party comprises one or more defendants.

23. The computer-readable medium of claim 21, wherein the first party comprises one or more defendants and the second party comprises one or more claimants.

24. The computer-readable medium of claim 21, wherein the settlement offer comprises one or more settlement offers.

25. The computer-readable medium of claim 21, wherein the settlement counter-offer comprises one or more counter-offers.

26. The computer-readable medium of claim 21, wherein step (a) and step (c) is limited to a time duration after which no further offers or counter-offers may be received.

27. The computer-readable medium of claim 21, wherein the settlement offer is associated with a group negotiation number.

28. The computer-readable medium of claim 21, wherein said computer-readable program code embodied therein causes a computer to further perform the step of:

generating a report for presentation to said first party, said report summarizing the settlement offers made by second party.

29. The computer-readable medium of claim 21, wherein said computer-readable program code embodied therein causes a computer to further perform the step of:

generating a report for presentation to said second party, said report summarizing the settlement offers made by the first party.

30. The computer-readable medium of claim 21, wherein said computer-readable program code embodied therein causes a computer to further perform the step of:

notifying the first party and the second party of the mean value;

31. The computer-readable medium of claim 21, wherein the first party is a group of one or more claimants, and the offer is an aggregate group offer from the claimants;

the second party is a group of one or more defendants and the counter-offer is made as individual offers from each of the defendants.

32. The computer-readable medium of claim 21, wherein the first party is a group of one or more defendants, and the offer is an aggregate group offer from the defendants;

the second party is a group of one or more claimants and the counter-offer is made as individual offers from each of the claimants.

33. The computer-readable program code embodied therein causes a computer to further perform the step of:

settling the dispute for the claimants and defendants when the sum of the individual demands is equal to or greater than the aggregate group offer.

34. The computer-readable program code embodied therein causes a computer to further perform the step of:

generating one or settlement documents when the dispute is settled.

35. The computer-readable program code embodied therein causes a computer to further perform the step of:

receiving a dispute registration for said dispute; and

storing said dispute registration into a database with a unique dispute identifier.

36. The computer-readable program code embodied therein causes a computer to further perform the step of:

providing to said first and second party each a unique access identifier, said unique access identifier associated to said dispute identifier.

37. The computer-readable program code embodied therein causes a computer to further perform the step of:

displaying a set of questions related to said dispute to said first party;

receiving a first set of general exchange information from said first party;

displaying to a second party, said set of questions related to said dispute; and receiving a second set of general exchange information from said second party.

38. The computer-readable medium of claim 37, wherein said computer-readable program code embodied therein causes a computer to further perform the step of:

presenting a comparison of said first and second sets of general exchange information, said comparison identifying matching and non-matching general exchange information.

39. The computer-readable medium of claim 37, wherein said computer-readable program code embodied therein causes a computer to further perform the steps of:

receiving a first set of private exchange information from said first party; and receiving a second set of private exchange information for said second party; wherein the first set of private exchange information is not viewable by the second party; and the second set of private exchange information is not viewable by the first party.

40. The computer-readable medium of claim 37, wherein said questions are determined for presentation based on a dispute type.

41. The computer-readable medium of claim 37, wherein the settlement offer or the settlement counter-offer is a non-suit request.